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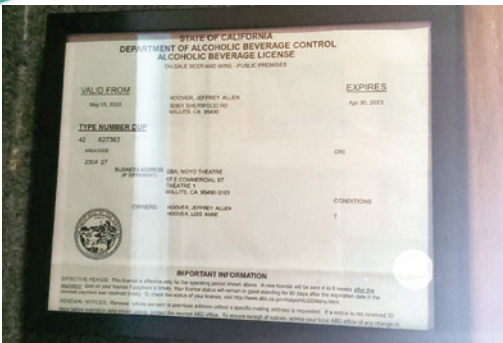
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Joanne Moore
Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of
Schools
Over on Page 6

IForrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

“Not to mention all past,
Read the rest of
Museum
Over on Page 6



Photos by
Maureen
Jennison

A hand holds a can of Mendo Summer Kölsch Style Ale in the foreground. The can features a label with a lighthouse illustration and the text "NORTH SPUR BREWING CO.", "MENDO SUMMER", and "KÖLSCH STYLE ALE". In the background, a computer monitor displays a digital birthday cake with colorful fireworks exploding around it. The text "HAPPY 61ST BIRTHDAY!" is visible at the bottom of the cake graphic. The scene is set in a room with teal curtains.

*Photos by
Maureen
Jennison*



NORTHSPUR

Mediterranean Summer
Shtetl
Proboscis Cloud

WINES

Kendall Jones Redwood
Stable Hand Wines
Dark Horse Red Wines
Dark Horse Grey
ACE Sancerre



Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
maureen[at]willitsweekly.com

The Noyo transformed its westernmost screening room into a special "21 and Over Club" which will offer patrons the chance to enjoy a can of beer or glass of wine while seated in the lap of luxury in the new plush electric-reclining seats.

Read the rest of
Noyo
Over on page 11

Read the rest of
Noyo
Over on page 11

Forrest Glyer
Features Writer
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Read more of
Sales Tax
Over on Page 6

B.B. Kamoroff
Reporter
bb@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of **Traffic**
Over on Page 6

**By Sgt. James Wells
for MCSO**

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Roundup
Over on Page 13

Read the rest of
Candidates | *Over on page 13*



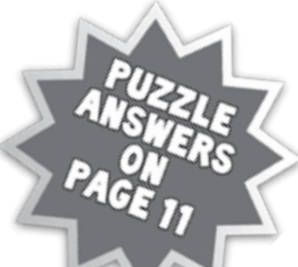
**Willits
business
owner Clay
Romero.**



**Third District
Supervisor
John Haschak**

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page
Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

9 1 6 4
2 5 4 7
9 3
4 2 1 6 8
1 8
9 3 8 2 4 1
1 4
8 4 2 7 6 9
3 1 4



HOW TO SUDOKU
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Crossword grid with numbers 1-63

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Scream loudly
5. Antidepressant (abbr.)
8. The bill in a restaurant
11. Oblong pulpits
13. Adult female chicken
14. Abnormal breathing
15. Financial obligations
16. Belonging to a thing
17. Winged
18. Peoples
20. College hoops tournament
21. An informal body of friends
22. Region of the world
25. In an early way
30. Connected by kinship
31. Type of tree
32. Official order
33. Foundation for an idea
38. Small, faint constellation
41. Book lovers
43. Vegetable
45. Cabbage variety
47. A way to heal
49. Illuminated
50. Dish that features a stick

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cool!
2. Hebrew unit of measure
3. Swedish rock group
4. College army
5. Black eye
6. One who stopped working
7. Teach a value
8. Rhythmic patterns
9. 'MASH' actor Alda
10. 'Friday Night Lights' director
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Indian musical pattern
19. Fulfill a desire

- 23. Water soaked soil
24. Brass instrument
25. Before
26. Popular color
27. Peyton's little brother
28. Partner to cheese
29. Put onto
34. 'Much ___ about nothing
35. A way to mend
36. Anger
37. Soviet Socialist Republic
39. Mobilized
40. Resembles an earlobe
41. Cut of meat
42. Nigerian people
44. Recently
45. Square stone building at Mecca
46. Adhere to orders
47. Adventure story
48. Marine bivalve mollusk
51. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
52. Actor Pitt
53. Tibetan village
54. A way to change by heating
58. A beam of sunshine

POPCORN WORD SEARCH
BAG, BALL, BUTTERY, CARAMEL, COB, CONCESSION, EXPLODE, FAIR, FLUFFY, KERNELS, KETTLE, MICROWAVE, MOVIE, OIL, PAN, POPCORN, POPPER, POT, SALT, SNACKS, SPICES, STEAM, STORAGE, STRINGS

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

May 8 to May 14
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 82 incidents in this 7 day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 8

- 2:54 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 800 block of Coast Street.
11:47 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

May 9

- 12:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.
1:29 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
5:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of panhandling in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
10:53 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

May 10

- 5:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Holly Street.

May 11

- 6:44 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.
11:42 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.
7:19 pm: GOFORTH, Brady Kevin (56) of Willits and SILVA, Shandra Lynn (18) of Lakeport were contacted in the 1200 block of Locust Street. They were both arrested on felony charges of grand theft and conspiracy to commit crime, and on misdemeanor charges of appropriating lost property for personal use.
8:57 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Wood Street.



Shandra Silva of Lakeport.

- 10:21 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 900 block of South Main Street.
11:13 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Walnut Street and South Main Street.
12:02 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.
2:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
2:29 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

May 13

- 12:21 am: SIMPSON, Gerald Crandall (52) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Marcela Drive following a report of an unwanted subject. He was arrested pursuant to 602 (T) (1) PC (Trespassing) and on felony charges of violation of parole.

- 8:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Spruce Street.
2:42 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of South Main Street.
9:11 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of West Valley Street.

May 14

- 8:46 am: SCHMITTFELIZ, Jennifer Michele (39) of Covelo was contacted near the intersection of Coast Street and West San Francisco Avenue. She was arrested on felony charges of possession of metal knuckles and violation of probation.
10:29 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.
11:14 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
2:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
4:33 pm: MATTSO, Cheryl Kathleen (49) of Ukiah was contacted in the 100 block of Barbara Lane. She was arrested pursuant to 368 PC (Elder Abuse).



Cheryl Mattson of Ukiah.



The rest of Fundraiser From page 2

will be drawn at the end of the Open House, and you do not need to be present to win.

Prizes include a \$200 Gift Certificate by Commercial Tire & Auto; gift certificates from Serenity Salon, Dahvi's Kitchen, Brickhouse Coffee, Ashley Photography, and other prizes.

We will be holding three additional raffles: One for a generator, one for a BBQ grill, and one for a 50/50 raffle! Tickets purchased separately!

The members of Little Lake Firefighters Association would like to extend this invitation to all residents in our district to attend the association's Fundraiser and Open House. Bring the Kids!

Activities will include: fire apparatus on display; volunteer firefighters available for firehouse tours; antique fire truck rides; food and drinks will be available with a small donation; fire department T-shirts with our new logo available for purchase; and the fundraiser raffle drawings for prizes.

Thank you for your support of the Little Lake Firefighters Association.

Submitted by Aaron Branscomb, president, and Harry So, secretary/treasurer



Above, from left: The team of Dominic and Kevin Kvasknicka made it through a couple rounds before being eliminated by Gabe Campbell and Bo Dale of Laytonville. Carrie Lambert of the Sober Grad board and recent graduate Callie Brown work the registration and scorer table. Andrew Hosford from the Sparetime team likes to balance his throws with a beverage. At left: As the games continue, they seem to become more serious and more fun at the same time.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Cornhole Tournament

A little corn dust, free pizza, prizes, and sunshine combine to create a successful fundraiser for Sober Grad

The competition was fast and furious. The corn-filled (thus the name) dusty bags were flying wildly through the air above the Rexall parking lot as the participants attempted to find the holes in the cornhole boards. That, or at least get their bags onto the platforms to either gain points or to erase the points of their opponents. The fierce Cornhole Tournament (and fierce laughter) was to raise funds for one of Willits' most venerable and pragmatic causes, Sober Grad, an organization that has saved many young lives by providing a fun, safe party following their graduation ceremony.

"The actual Sober Grad party will be Thursday, June 9 at the Willits Community Center from 9 pm to 4 am," explained Carrie Lambert of the Sober Grad board of directors. "If you leave, you can't come back, and you need to stay that late to be eligible for the two \$1,000 grand prizes as well as some of the cash prizes.

"We have a ton of great prizes," said Lambert. "There are seven prize drawings throughout the night. Everyone who attends is guaranteed to receive a prize worth about \$50. All of the seniors in attendance have their name in a drawing for high-value prizes which are worth about \$150, and mega-prizes which are worth about \$200. There are cash drawings for about \$100 which go all night until we run out of money. And there are the drawings for the \$1,000 cash prizes."

All of the prizes and money have either been generously donated by local businesses and individuals or raised through events and raffles. Last weekend's highly competitive Cornhole Tournament was sponsored by Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl, Coldwell Banker, Sparetime Supply, Bull Clover Beef, and 101 Trailer & RV Supply, some of whom participated in the actual contest, sending teams of two to participate in chucking the bags at the boards. MetalFX sent Jevin Wolfe and Nicholas Harrington, who claimed proudly to be the best in the entire company.

When the corn dust had cleared, one team emerged triumphant, Stephen Summers and Mickey Coughlin, receiving much praise and two sets of burger-making kits. Although, bragging rights were

Read the rest of Tournament Over on page 15



At top: Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez takes her turn as opponent Heather Walker waits for her chance. Above: As the games proceed, the teams actually start to get the hang of it. Below, left: Some of the corn-filled bags actually made it onto the boards and some even found the hole. Below, right: Tournament winners Stephen Summers and Mickey Coughlin outlasted all the other teams.



Photo by Willits Sober Grad

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TJKM did a detailed analysis of traffic flow and traffic accidents in Willits over a five-year period, 2015-2019. There were 200 collisions resulting in a total of seven severe injuries. There were no fatalities. TJKM concluded that the biggest traffic problems were at two intersections, Main and Commercial, and Main and Sherwood Road. TJKM recommended more signage, more street striping, flashing crosswalk signals, and constructing roundabouts and traffic islands in the street. *Deja vu all over again.*

It's been said that a consultant is someone who borrows your watch to tell you what time it is. Council member Greta Kanne thanked TJKM for the presentation, but did not hesitate to say that she found it frustrating. "Anybody who lives in Willits for any amount of time could have probably told you, if you had just asked, which are the most problematic intersections, where we have the biggest issues with speeding, all those things people in the community have identified for years."

TJKM's project team did not respond to Kanne's comments but continued on: "Our next step is to put the application together and submit it to Caltrans. We're going to cross our fingers and hope we get some funds to get these things implemented." And if this grant application does not get approved, the consultants said they could look into "other opportunities" to fund these projects.

Which wasn't exactly what the council wanted to hear. Kanne concluded: "Yes, we've identified these again. And yes, we've made these suggestions for having these approved,

Dan Green agreed, saying: "I'd like to thank Joe ... [for a] great year."

And the board unanimously approved the placement of a plaque as a final recognition for Uebelhart, who passed away in March at the age of 90.

"He had a long career here at Willits Unified ... as a principal over at Baechtcl Grove, [Sanhedrin, and Crazy Horse School]. And once he retired, he served on the board of Mendocino College," said trustee Paula Nunez. "Paul was dedicated to education."

As a theme, dedication to education is an apt descriptor of a good portion of the rest of the meeting.

Indeed, board President Robert Chavez dubbed it "one of the best meetings I've attended because we're talking about instruction."

Attaining proficiency in reading, for example, clearly motivated educators and administrators alike.

"We spent three hours ... at least half our meeting on Monday, discussing reading specialists," Bowles told the board. "Next year we're slated to have six coaches."

"We need to increase our aide positions," he continued. "They allow the teacher ... to actually create small groups in the classroom."

"It's critical to teach reading in small groups," agreed Brookside second-grade teacher Sandy Lucier. "My dream is to increase aide time."

"Another thing that we think will really help to improve reading scores is to hire two PE teachers ... at Blosser and Brookside. That's paramount," continued Bowles. "We have a problem with our aides being used for yard duty. We need to fill yard duty positions."

Aldridge responded, telling the board that the district was "looking at adding additional bilingual aides and a PE teacher, in addition to the position we already have available. So ... we would have a credentialed PE teacher at each of Brookside and Blosser."

Tuesday to begin crafting the ordinance which would take advantage of a tax rate drop-off about to set in for Measure B, and put that money towards local fire districts and water projects.

"For some time we've been identifying fire and [Emergency Medical Services] – specifically volunteer fire – as severely underfunded and not sustainable," said board Chair Ted Williams. "And it's a critical need countywide. And I know [First District Supervisor Glenn McGourt] in open session has raised the idea of using sales tax for mitigating some of our drought situation, and those conditions exist throughout the county as well. And so what I would like to start with is a proposal that we look at the available revenue and split it between fire and water," he said.

"On fire ... I think our best move is to ask our local fire agencies, what do they think is fair and then support them," he continued. "That one's easy. On water, I think we need to find a fair way to divide any revenue because ... every corner of the county has drought concerns, and we don't want to raise funds that get spent in one corner of the county. And frankly that would make it hard to convince the people to pass it with a 2/3 vote as necessary."

The sales tax for the Measure B Mental Health

again. So what are we going to do about it, that we aren't getting another report like this in 10 years and getting the thing told back to us – again?"

New homes may – eventually – be on the horizon for the south end of Willits, adjacent to the Haehl Creek subdivision behind the hospital. At the May 11 city council meeting, the council voted unanimously to rezone two parcels from heavy commercial to single-family residential.

The parcels, owned by Willits developer Margie Handley, are large, 1 acre and 2 acres, but the new zoning will permit only one home plus a small in-law unit on each parcel. The zoning would also permit, instead of a residence, a residential care home that can house up to six people.

Handley, born and raised in Willits but now living in San Diego, told Willits Weekly that she has no immediate plans to develop the property, and she hoped the two parcels could, in the future, possibly be subdivided into smaller lots. For now, Handley said she was happy to finally get this rezoning, that she said has taken two years. "Right now it's just a big weed patch."

The Mendocino County Museum here in Willits is on the chopping block. City manager Brian Bender sounded the alarm at the May 11 council meeting, reporting that the county supervisors are considering shutting down the museum for a year, citing a need to cut county expenses to close a \$3 million looming deficit.

Several people knowledgeable about museum operations, including Third District Supervisor John Haschak, have pointed

Staffing needs, though, extend beyond aides and PE teachers.

"Across our district we have an absolute lull of staff," said Bowles.

"Many places have just one day and one night custodian," he continued. "Some sites have just one custodian for the whole school."

"For custodians who are there working, I want to give a shout out to professionalism under pressure," he added.

CSEA president Dan Green agreed that "pretty much every job classification is understaffed."

These and other unmet needs may have underlain a less than enthusiastic response to a request by Aldridge to hire an assistant superintendent.

"We have a [state-required] extended opportunity learning program ... coming on board that will require a good bit of time and coordination and support to initially get going," he explained to the board in support of the request.

The new program will "provide more opportunities for students outside of the learning that's happening during the day," he continued. "The goal will be that students will have up to a nine-hour day, [transitional kindergarten] through sixth grade."

Pointing out again how "the lack of support staff affects the education of our students," Bowles cautioned the board "strongly about the precedent you set in creating this position, [reminding them] that you're trying to be fiscally responsible.

"We don't have custodians. We don't have paraprofessionals.... We have a problem with yard duty positions. Aides are being used," he explained. "It's a little bit cart before the horse."

Aldridge responded that the "position won't necessarily be at an office every day. [It] will be out at sites."

The board was not convinced.

"I would table this, [and] put it in the hands of the next superintendent," said trustee Alex

out that closing the museum will save little money. A vast irreplaceable collection of historic Mendocino County artifacts, documents and publications need to be preserved and protected, requiring climate controls, security, and building maintenance. Museum employees would still be employed, transferred to other county departments. And donors, who gave the county unique and priceless heirlooms to display in the museum, could possibly demand that their donations be returned to them, a costly process.

Mayor Saprina Rodriguez requested that the council add an agenda item for the next council meeting, to send a letter to the county protesting closing the museum. Council member Kanne encouraged anyone who would like to express an opinion about the museum to contact the board of supervisors. Email bos@co.mendocino.ca.us or visit www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors to find individual emails for each supervisor.

City manager Bender succinctly summed up a sad situation: "This is unnecessary and unfair."

This is the last report I will be writing for Willits Weekly. I just received a contract to research and write new editions of two of my business guidebooks, a full-time project that will take several months to complete.

I want to thank city manager Brian Bender, city staff Dusty Duley, Scott Herman, Andrea Trincado, Davey Bowles and Cathy Moorhead, city attorney Jim Lance, and police chief Fabian Lizarraga for being extraordinarily helpful and friendly. Thank you, Jennifer Poole, for offering me the job, it was fun. *Later alligator.*

Bowlds.

"At this point, we need to table this," agreed Chavez.

That the superintendent's responsibilities do require a lot of time monitoring and reporting on a multitude of data and programs was clearly demonstrated by Aldridge's description of a recently completed "federal program monitoring" task.

He reported how he and Director of Fiscal Services Nikki Agenbroad "linked 300 and some odd documents ... each researched, and supplied in the right way.

"We uploaded hours and hours of work ... to assure compliance with the federal mandates for programs for English learners and program enrichment."

Such is the bane of receiving and spending the public's money, a task also recently reported on when it comes to the district's expenditures of its first round of the sale of \$17 million worth of bonds authorized by the passage of Measure I in November 2020.

By the terms of the measure, an oversight committee has to meet regularly to examine expenditures and make sure funds are being spent "appropriately against the projects identified in the bond measure."

This year's oversight committee's annual report, supplied to the board at the meeting, cited a recent audit which verified appropriate spending and also noted that "the dollars remaining in the Measure I fund are diminishing after an active summer of 2021, and careful review and management of the fund is taking place for the remaining significant projects until the next bond draw in 2024."

Of that balance remaining after the first draw, Bowlds noted that the "rest of the proceeds are for the Blosser [fire] alarm."

Specific draw amounts were reported as follows: "A bond issue was completed in January 2021 for \$4 million, [and] additional bond issues are scheduled for 2024 (\$3 million), 2026 (\$3 million), 2028 (\$3 million), and 2031 (\$4 million).

current and future Mendocino County residents including our fallen war heroes, our men and women in the lumber industry, our men and women in the fishing industry, our Native American friends, our Roots of Motive Power crew, our mom and pop businesses, our school teachers, our police and firefighters, our doctors and nurses, our men and women and children who support and visit our museum, and our hardworking county employees including administrator Karen Mattsen and her staff and volunteers.

"Chris Baldo, a founding member of Roots of Motive power has reminded me," Whitney continued, "that back in 1970, the Mendocino County historical society gifted our county its museum building along with the historical artifacts it contained. These treasures are our voices of the past, be it the tattered written texts of the 1600s, or a broken-down steam train from the 1850s. Please don't let these treasures go dark. I urge you to do everything in your power to keep this invaluable county treasure open."

Roots of Motive Power President Troy James talked about the important relationship that the county museum has had with the Roots activities over the years.

"Roots and the museum have always had a tight connection and an understanding with each other," said James. "And if the museum were to close it would dramatically affect Roots of Motive Power's ability to conduct their business. We would no longer have access to our research library which I know people don't see, but we use quite regularly for the maintenance, preservation and restoration of our pieces, of which some are also owned by the county museum.

"Our first project was a spool donkey that's owned currently and was [owned] then by the county," he continued. That was the first restoration that Roots had done.... I know you're trying to save value, but history does have a value."

Albion resident Anne Marie Weibel talked about her personal experiences in visiting the Willits Museum.

"When I first arrived in this county and visited the county museum in 1978, I was blown away by this amazing museum," she said. "I was raised going to a museum where I saw history of people from hundreds and hundreds of years ago, and to come to a museum where actual life history was also displayed was mind-blowing."

"The savings, the little that you would be making would not pay for the loss of this community," she added. "It is important to keep this museum open, and I encourage you to do that because if we have no history we also have no future, and it is important that we keep this history alive."

An estimate stated by Haschak at a previous board meeting was that while the cost of the museum is around \$550,000 annually, the savings in closing the museum would only be around \$150,000 per year due to the ongoing maintenance and preservation work that would still be necessary.

The Friends of the Mendocino County Museum and the Willits Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring an "open house" event this Friday at the museum to support keeping the museum open. The event begins at 6 pm at 400 East Commercial Street.

Then there are the scores of white pickups with one person per pickup lining driveways and filling yards. Add to that the many roadblocks that line the roads on the hills and in the valley, and you will understand the stress upon my 86-year-old body and mind that causes me to submit this letter as a means of release. Thanks for the opportunity.

John Henson, Willits

property and asked him if he had not been advised of that by his bosses – of course he had not.

So the beat goes on, and we are forced to deal with the noise of dueling chainsaws, chipper shredders, and air pollution and noise pollution of up to 30 vehicles a day driving up and down Pine Mountain.

Then there are the scores of white pickups with one person per pickup lining driveways and filling yards. Add to that the many roadblocks that line the roads on the hills and in the valley, and you will understand the stress upon my 86-year-old body and mind that causes me to submit this letter as a means of release. Thanks for the opportunity.



At far left: Willits High School's 2022 varsity baseball team at their final game of the year. At left: Kooper Dockins runs to first base after hitting a ground ball at a game against Potter Valley on March 21. Below: WHS student Kooper Dockins is happy to be back on the playing field after COVID restrictions prevented him from playing for nearly two years.

Life Without Sport

WHS sophomore Kooper Dockins talks about missing out on athletics during the pandemic

By Cody Pedersen, WHS

In March of 2020, Kooper Dockins was preparing for what was meant to be his final year of Little League baseball action. He was finding his own, growing into a stand-out athlete in his hometown and eagerly awaiting the start of his Willits High School athletic journey. This journey, though, would have to wait.

The rapid spread and transmission of COVID-19 forced federal, state, and local health authorities to enact restrictive policies meant to limit person-to-person interactions across the nation. These policies included the cancellation of many high school and youth sports seasons.

Countless professional athletes participated in abbreviated seasons while many of America's youth, high school, and collegiate athletic programs shut down altogether.

Along with the bulk of the nation, Kooper became restricted to the confines of his home, doing his part to suppress what we now know to be a devastating pandemic. What initially was a time of fervent optimism quickly turned to demoralizing isolation.

"I remember reading the email sent to every student and parent informing us that all school [functions] would be shut down until further notice," Kooper said. "At the beginning, we weren't quite sure what a 'total shutdown' really meant. No one expected a year and a half of life without sports."

For young athletes like Kooper – many who participate in multiple sports throughout the year – the pandemic forced a lifestyle change so drastic that many kids experienced negative effects on their mental and physical health.

"I found it more difficult to do my school work without sports," said Dockins, who like many of his peers, uses sports as an incentive to get good grades. "I wasn't

depressed or more anxious. I just missed competing and it felt like I may never get the opportunity to do what I love again."

Research has been conducted to determine how this lack of playtime has affected young athletes during the pandemic.

In late March of 2021, a study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health found that pandemic-induced isolation was a major contributor to deteriorating mental and physical health in young athletes.

The study argues that kids who were lucky enough to continue their athletic ventures during the brunt of COVID "described fewer symptoms of anxiety and depression and had better physical activity and quality-of-life scores compared with adolescent athletes who did not play a sport."

Fast-forward to the 2021-2022 school year, optimism returned. Willits Unified School District held in-person instruction for the first time since the spring of 2020. This meant that after more than a year and a half of painful confinement, Willits athletics were back.

Kooper now participates in three competitive sports offered at Willits High: football, basketball and baseball.

"Sports are my outlet. I forget about all my problems while I'm suited up, playing with my friends," he said. "Most of us see sports as our time to just have fun."

Time to be a kid

"To see students engaging in [athletic] activities that have positive outcomes is the best thing in the world," said Michael Colvig, principal at Willits High School. "The experiences of joy in success, as well as pain in failure are



some of the most formative events in a student athlete's high school experience."

It's now May of 2022 and Kooper is wrapping up his sophomore season of high school baseball. When asked if he and his peers have enjoyed being back in a competitive atmosphere, Kooper said with conviction, "Absolutely."

Willits has historically been an incredibly supportive community for our student-athletes. As we prepare to enter the 2022-2023 school year, it is imperative we continue to show our young athletes they have the support of our small town's people.

For more information on how you can support Willits High School athletes, reach out to the Willits High School Boosters Club on Facebook.

Editor's Note: Reporter Cody Pedersen is a student at Willits High School, interested in sports reporting. Willits Weekly is pleased to be able to publish this story.



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Pg. 6 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 **Willits Weekly | May 19, 2022**

Willits Weekly | May 19, 2022 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 **Pg. 7**



Above: "Grizzly bear fishing," courtesy of C. Hart Merriam Pictorial Collection at The Bancroft Library.

'Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly' opens at Mendocino County museum

Submitted by Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency

Over the centuries, the relationship that Californians have had with the grizzly bear is one of dualities expressed in fear and fascination. Although now extinct in the state, the grizzly has long been a central character in California's history. Illuminating the story of the grizzly is the exhibition "Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly," which opens at the Mendocino County Museum on Saturday, June 4.

The California grizzly possessed characteristics that we hold dear: independence, adaptability, resourcefulness, intelligence, and strong maternal care. Yet human interaction with the bears was misguided, intolerant and violent.

Scientists estimate that 10,000 grizzlies once lived in California, perhaps the densest population of brown bears on the continent. However, through increased human settlement, loss of habitat, and hunting, by the early 1900s the California grizzly had vanished and could only be seen on the state flag. Although the loss of the California grizzly was a tragic lesson, we are not too late to save other threatened and endangered species.

Today, California grizzly bears only exist in our imaginations as symbols of things desired and things lost. Since the mid-1800s, the grizzly has been used as an icon, advertiser and entertainer, making the image of the bear a familiar one to most people.

Little physical evidence remains of the grizzly bears that once roamed California. It is through stories, artifacts, striking images, and the hands-on activities that the "Bear in Mind" exhibition provides, that we can take an in-depth look at the history and science of California's most revered and feared animals.

The "Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly" exhibition is based on the Heyday Books publication, "Bear in Mind: The California Grizzly" by Susan Snyder, as well as The Bancroft Library exhibition of the same name.

Currently scheduled for installation at more than 17 museums across the state over the next three years, "Bear in Mind" will continue at the Mendocino County Museum through Sunday, July 31, 2022.

The "Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly" exhibition is produced and toured by Exhibit Envoy. The exhibition was developed in concert with The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, and Heyday Books. Exhibit Envoy collaborates with California institutions to create and tour smaller, affordable, high-quality exhibitions that enhance civic engagement and human understanding. This exhibition was supported by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation with additional funds from the Bank of the West.

The Mendocino County Museum is located at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits. Open hours are 10 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 12 to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$4 adults; 1 for students 7-18; and free for children 6 and under. Family admission (2 adults and children) is \$7. Free admission on the first Saturday of the month, or with a Mendocino County Library card.

Learn more about Mendocino County Museum and view our full program calendar at www.mendocinocounty.org/museum. For more information, please contact the Mendocino County Museum at 707-459-2736 or museum@mendocinocounty.org.



Stephen Marley returns to the Mateel Community Center on his Babylon By Bus Summer Tour 2022

Submitted by Mateel Community Center

Indigo Children Project presents Stephen Marley with special guest Skip Marley on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at the Mateel Community Center in Redway. This will be his second stop on the Babylon By Bus Summer Tour and will feature a special outdoor setting, sponsored by March and Ash.

Stephen Marley is an award-winning singer, songwriter and producer. From his solo works to family collaborations and production credits, Stephen Marley's music has earned him eight Grammy Awards. He is the second eldest son of reggae legend Bob Marley and Rita Marley, raised in Kingston, Jamaica. With a prolific work ethic in his Lion Den Studios, Stephen just released an EP collection of songs he produced with female vocalists as an homage to legend Nina Simone, titled "Celebrating Nina: A Reggae Tribute to Nina Simone," and is currently putting the finishing touches on his own new album projects, with the first solo LP slated to release in fall of 2022. For more information, visit www.stephenmarleymusic.com.

This show is a re-scheduled date originally announced for August 26, 2021. All tickets purchased for the August date will

be honored for the rescheduled date on June 2.

The event will feature craft and food vendors, including authentic Jamaican food from Los Angeles-based restaurant Stones Jamaican Roots and Juice as well as Irae Divine's food truck, serving Philly cheesesteaks as well as vegetarian options.

Southern California-based March and Ash is the sponsor for the special event, featuring an outdoor stage at the Mateel. March and Ash, a customer-focused, licensed cannabis dispensary with six locations, is honored to join Stephen Marley and his band at the Mateel Center – a community epicenter of Northern California cannabis and Reggae roots and culture.

Tickets are on sale now through Brown Paper Tickets for \$45 in advance, \$55 the day of the show. Doors open at 6 pm, the event is all ages. The Mateel Community Center is located at 59 Rusk Lane in Redway. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://stephenmarleymateel.brownpapertickets.com>. For more information about the show, visit www.mateel.org or call 707-923-3368.



Photos by Mathew Caine

At top: Little Lake NAPA Auto Parts has an interesting array of classic cars in 2021. Above: Mike Brown's 1954 Ford F1 pickup with a 428 CID blown engine won "Best of Show" in 2019. Below, left: People enjoy the 2019 car show at the Rec Grove Park.

40th annual Willits Car Show on Memorial Day weekend

Come out and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Willits Car and Bike Show Memorial Day weekend, sponsored by the Willits Chamber of Commerce.

On Saturday, May 28, there's a "Pre Car Show" at Little Lake Auto Parts, 1571 South Main Street, from 11 am to 2 pm.

On Sunday, May 29, the show moves to the Recreation Grove on East Commercial Street. The Willits Lions Club starts off festivities with their Lions Club Breakfast, 7 to 10 am at the Scout Hut. Beautiful vintage cars and motorcycles will be displayed at the Rec Grove through 3 pm.



At left: Food gathered from the 2022 Stamp Out Hunger drive sits in bins on the loading dock at the Willits Post Office

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1972-2022

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FRIDAY MAY 20, 2022 | 6PM

400 E. COMMERCIAL ST.

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Photos by Jesus Ramirez

Above: Some of the almost 1,500 pounds of donated food awaits pickup at the Willits Post Office. Below: Donations of food included a variety of goodies, including ready-to-eat lentils, peaches and peppermint hot chocolate.



Photo by Matthew Jennison

— Maureen Jennison

Willits Giant Yard Sale

261 Franklin Ave.

Bring a wagon to carry all the treasure you will find! Over 20 units participating.

June 18th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

MAY 21 2022

TODD GROVE PARK

8 AM - 1 PM

CalFresh

Is a food assistance program. You can be on Social Security, have money in the bank, own cars and still receive CalFresh benefits.

Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment to see if you qualify.

707-459-6826

BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TK-Kindergarten Registration Now Open

To pre-register go to www.willitsunified.com

Para registrar a su estudiante ve a www.willitsunified.com

Kindergarten - age 5 by September 1, 2022

Transitional Kindergarten - age 5 between Sept. 2 and Feb. 2, 2023

Kinder - 5 años antes de Septiembre 1, 2022

Trancision de Kinder - 5 años en medio de Septiembre 2 a Febrero 2, 2023

Once you have completed the online registration, please bring the following documents to Brookside:

- Birth Certificate
- Certificado de nacimiento
- Immunization records
- Registros de inmunización (vaccunas)

If you have any questions please call the Brookside office at (707) 459-5385 or visit our Website at www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside

Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame a la oficina de Brookside al (707) 459-5385 or visite nuestro sitio web www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside

Willits Junior Horsemen's Association

72nd annual

ALL DAY PLAYDAY

9am through the afternoon, 901 Hearst Rd., (NOT AT THE RODEO GROUNDS) Drive under bypass!

Saturday June 4th & Sunday June 5th

Open to the Public

Come see the roping & races!

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IT'S THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILLITS CAR AND BIKE SHOW

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE WILLITS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Willits CAR AND BIKE Show

40TH ANNIVERSARY

COME OUT & CELEBRATE

MAY 29, 2022

10 AM - 3 PM

AT THE REC GROVE PARK

WILLITS LIONS CLUB BREAKFAST

7 AM - 10 AM AT THE BOY SCOUT HUT

PRE CAR SHOW

SATURDAY MAY 28

11 AM - 2 PM

AT LITTLE LAKE AUTO PARTS - 1571 S. MAIN STREET

May 21 2022

Mendo crafts presents Spring sale

May vendors Faire

11AM - 5PM

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RE-ELECT

HASCHAK

FOR SUPERVISOR

"Building Stronger Communities Together" means working for a diversified economy, with sustainable jobs by...

- ✓ Promoting enhanced career and technical education
- ✓ Supporting small and local businesses that respect our communities and natural environment
- ✓ Improving and increasing broadband access
- ✓ Creating more affordable housing opportunities

And working together toward these shared goals with the following elected community leaders who have endorsed John Haschak for Supervisor:

Congressman Jared Huffman

State Senator Mike McGuire

Assemblymember Jim Wood

Sheriff Matt Kendall

Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez, Willits City Council Madge Strong, and Gerry Gonzalez

Brooktrails President Rick Williams and Brooktrails Board Members Tina Tyler O'Shea, Ralph Santos, Ed Horrick, and Tony Orth

Cahto Tribal Chair Mary Norris

Laytonville Area Municipal Advisory Council Chair Jim Shields

Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council Chair Charles Sargentini

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Haschak for Supervisor 2022, FPPC# 1442639

The rest of Candidates

From page 1

have given out \$27,000 to students.

I have worked with Sheriff Kendall and Sheriff Allman to secure additional state funding to combat egregious cannabis grows and worked with firesafe councils and communities in creating emergency-access routes (which proved critical for safe evacuations during the Oak Fire).

I worked with Debra Polack and Mendocino College to start up an EMT/paramedic program, worked on broadband delivery to Mendocino County, and worked to support the small cannabis cultivators of our county, while standing up against the corporate takeover of our lands and communities. I have been effective in advocating for the Third District and Mendocino County. That is why I am supported by over 150 leaders in our district.

Clay Romero: I have been in the Third District for 48 years and know it well. I graduated from Laytonville High School in 1978 and have owned my own home since 1979. I'm a problem solver, not a bureaucrat. I am for helping the people and am not beholden to anyone. I care about the people and will not burden them by accepting a county pension upon my departure. My career requires excellence so I am used to demanding situations. I believe in policies that have substance, rather than symbolic rhetoric. I know how things work, because I design and build them.

What are the most important changes that you as a supervisor would push for related to Willits and the surrounding areas such as Little Lake Valley, Brooktrails and Pine Mountain?

Clay Romero: I want to revise county policy to make permits easier and cheaper to obtain. When a permit is requested, the parcel of land will be exempt from property tax until the permit's benefits are realized. If something prevents the permit's benefits from completion, the county should refund the money. This will incentivize the county to work promptly and result in greater economic activity and prosperity while providing more jobs.

I also will stop all COVID-19 related government vaccine and mask mandates.

John Haschak: Fire safety and drought resiliency are two critical issues. Working with the incredible volunteers of the Sherwood Firewise Community and generous landowners, we were able to get shaded fuel breaks and passable emergency-access routes for the Brooktrails area. More work is needed to secure additional routes and working together with CalFire, Brooktrails Fire Department and the board, and the SFC, we will accomplish our goals.

Pine Mountain is another basically one way in, one way out community. CalFire has worked with the firesafe council to create shaded fuel breaks and better alternative roads. The Pine Mountain Firesafe Council has also done a lot of work on home hardening. I am proud that the board was able to fully fund the Mendocino County Firesafe Council for the next five years and that the board funded the pilot program of creating a County Service Area Zone of Benefit in the Sherwood Corridor.

Drought resilience is critical for our county, especially in Little Lake Valley. We need to protect our water, and that is why I have worked with Supervisor McGourty and community groups to come up with a way of ensuring that we have enough water and that it isn't sucked out of the valley floor and hauled off to unpermitted cannabis grows in the hills.

Given all the recent challenges in the county transitioning to legal cannabis, do you think any major changes are needed to the current 10A17 cannabis ordinance, and what can the county do at this point to help those who want to be in the legal market be successful?

John Haschak: One of the major accomplishments of my first term was standing up against the proposed ordinance to expand cannabis grows in all zones, including environmentally sensitive resource lands. The people gathered signatures for a referendum, and the other supervisors finally joined me in rejecting those flawed ideas.

Going forward, I have worked with Mendocino Cannabis Alliance and Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group as well as the Willits Environmental Center to get cultivators through the permitting process to their annual state licensure. I don't think that the ordinance needs major changes, but rather more efficient implementation.

The state has given Mendocino County \$18 million to help people get their annual licenses. If people are following the intent of the 10A17 ordinance, the county must

provide a competent and helpful process for people to get to licensure, not bureaucratic nonsense and roadblocks. The county must hire more staff to administer the program, provide education and assistance on how to successfully complete the Appendix G CEQA document, use the state money to support the cultivators, and realize that

CLAY ROMERO

I have been in Mendocino County for 48 years and graduated from Laytonville High School in 1978. At 18 years old, I began a manufacturing career in Willits, where I started as a clean-up man pushing a broom. Today, I am the proprietor of my own machine shop in Willits called ROMAX. I have been in business for 28 years in the same location. Along the way I played piano, sang, and wrote poetry.

Clay Romero: Yes, I think major changes are needed. Though 10A.17 is technically correct, it is far too demanding of permittees to be workable. I recommend rewriting it for readability and simplification. This 42-page document could be summed up in one sentence. "When growing cannabis, don't bother your neighbors."

The county should reduce or eliminate county fees associated with legal cannabis cultivators. I know the value of cannabis products are very low due to an oversupply condition. We need to be fair with those that sought to be legal rather than being punitive.

Do you think the county is doing a good job at dispersing the Measure B Mental Health Treatment Act money in Mendocino? If not, what do you feel they should be doing differently?

Clay Romero: Yes. I understand the Crisis Residential Treatment facility building was recently completed and opened on April 25, 2022. I look forward to seeing the facility and working to establish policy for its best and most efficient use. This is a very good base on which to build.

John Haschak: Former Sheriff Tom Allman did a great favor for Mendocino County by getting Measure B passed. We are the only county with such a measure dedicated to mental health services. Though it has taken longer than the public wanted, we just opened a regional training facility in Redwood Valley and a crisis residential treatment center in Ukiah. The board approved construction of a psychiatric hospital facility.

There are also programs being funded by Measure B such as aftercare, mobile outreach, education and awareness, and a crisis respite facility on the coast. I want to thank former Sheriff Allman, Jed Diamond, and Sherrie Ebyam, who have provided stellar representation on the Measure B oversight committee.

How can the county best be proactive in trying to protect against devastating fires in the area which destroy lives, property and the environment?

John Haschak: Climate change is having devastating consequences. We have droughts, increased aridity, and longer, hotter summers. The Climate Action Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the board on ways that Mendocino County can be proactive in doing our part to limit climate change.

Promoting healthy forests by using prescribed burns and fuel-reduction projects are needed. People are forming fire safe communities which are instrumental in educating and strengthening communities by connecting neighbor to neighbor. I have been persistent and collaborative in developing emergency-access routes. We need to seek funding through the federal infrastructure act for a true second-access route in and out of Brooktrails.

The board has given additional funding to firewise councils and fire departments. Tree mortality is an increasing danger to our communities, and I will be proposing a Tree Mortality Task Force to look at this critical issue. Most importantly, we need to help each other in creating safer communities.

Clay Romero: It would be good to incentivize brush clearing by the county by

helping property owners clear brush and give a discount on their property taxes for a job well done. The county and the people would benefit in the long term from houses that were saved from a wildfire. I also know that with some updated building codes and some local ingenuity, we can make houses much more resistant to burning. This would

help people with the cost of insuring their houses. What is good for the people will be good for the county.

The latest budget assessments for the county show that there may be some serious structural deficit issues with declining revenues and increasing expenses. What are some of the ways the board of supervisors can help to keep the county budget balanced in the upcoming years, while also taking into account understaffing in many departments?

Clay Romero: By privatizing the building department, money can be saved, while transitioning employees into non-governmental jobs doing the same job. We can also minimize some of the 34 boards and commissions that have questionable benefit or have inordinately high costs to operate. We can increase county revenues in the long term by making permits easier to get and by encouraging more manufacturing to operate in Mendocino County. Working with those that make a physical product will generate more real wealth for driving other service-related industries like tourism.

We need to reduce our unfunded liability pensions by transitioning all new employees to 401K pension plans. A well-managed 401K plan would be superior by giving county employees more choices. Our current public employee pension system is responsible for our county paying out \$3.2 million per month in pension benefits, which reduces the money the county can use to benefit our people. This retirement system is the primary reason why the City of Vallejo, Stockton, and the City of San Bernardino all filed for bankruptcy. If this government-run system continues, Mendocino County will suffer the same fate.

John Haschak: The county needs to be more efficient in how it conducts business. With the pandemic and many people retiring throughout the country, we have found many departments short of staff. County employees are working hard. The pandemic showed that some jobs can be done remotely. There are efficiencies to be gained by technologies. We do need to cut inefficiencies and work smarter.

The flip side is that the county can increase revenues by making sure that we are collecting taxes due, especially property and short-term rental taxes. A vibrant economy will also generate more revenue. This means getting business permits issued quickly, securing water so that housing can be developed, and getting the cannabis cultivators to their annual licenses.

Given the ongoing drought concerns, what are the most important measures the county can take to ensure that water is available to all areas in the upcoming years?

John Haschak: I have been working with Supervisor McGourty on water issues for the past year. We have brought in \$23.3 million in state grants for water-infrastructure programs. We applied for a grant to study how much water we have in our aquifers and the quality of that water. The county is looking at setting up a water agency with input from throughout the county. We need to look at where inter-ties of water systems make sense, because hauling water from Ukiah to the coast is unsustainable. We also need to regulate the extraction of water from valleys and the hauling of that water to illegal cannabis grows.

Clay Romero: We need to prepare our lands to capture more water in lakes and reservoirs. The raising of Scott Dam at Lake Pillsbury would be an easy solution and funded by the State Water Bond of 2014. The funds are still available via a grant. There was also a study done in 1982 that looked at 13 areas in Northern California for building lakes that should be reviewed.

Having an additional lake would insure that more water would be available for the Eel River to remain "Wild and Scenic" during times of drought.

What other issues would you invest your time and energy into as Third District supervisor?

Clay Romero: I will defend the 48,000 acre Jackson State Demonstration Forest. It was deeded to California for this purpose, and has worked very well for 73 years. I also want to develop policies for dealing with the homeless who are chronically into drugs, alcohol and crime.

I expect to defend the people against state and federal laws that are oppressive to our people. It is the supervisors who are the last line of defense against bad laws. The COVID-19 government mandates and policies were destructive to our economy and health. I stand ready to defend our people, not meddling government agencies.

I want to make Mendocino County self-sufficient, to maintain safety, have abundant water, develop its own food supply, and be as energy-independent as possible. The Sheriff's Office can do a lot, but it is the people that can maintain the security in a broad sense. I support keeping Lake Pillsbury and pursuing other avenues of storing water. The hydroelectric plant at the Potter Valley Project is critical for meeting the energy needs of the people, and must not be shut down. I will be looking to develop other energy sources as well, and to keep it local.

John Haschak: The vast majority of my time has been spent on making our communities safer, creating the conditions for a vibrant economy, and transparency in our government. I greatly appreciate the collaboration of many people in moving these key issues forward, yet there is still a lot of work to be done in each of these areas. I look forward to working with the people of the Third District, the county, and beyond to achieve these goals. Public service is noble, and I am honored to serve the Third District of Mendocino County.

The rest of Roundup

From page 1

the front of the adult female's vehicle. During the incident the adult female heard a single gunshot, and her vehicle's tire deflated.

Hencz then left the area towards the direction of Highway 162. Deputies checked the area but did not locate Hencz or her vehicle, and a BOLO ("be on the lookout") was issued to local law enforcement agencies.

On May 7, a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy noticed Hencz driving her vehicle in the Laytonville area.

The deputy conducted a traffic stop on Hencz, and she was subsequently arrested for assault with a deadly weapon (245(A)(2) PC), vandalism (594(A)(1) PC), and an active misdemeanor warrant.

Deputies found a spent .22 caliber shell casing inside the vehicle. Deputies further noticed Hencz's vehicle had damage to the front of the vehicle consistent with the reported incident.

Hencz was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where she was to be held in lieu of \$32,500 bail.

2 arrested for transporting pot plants

By Sgt. J. Wells for MCSO

On May 6, at about 11:30 pm, a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy noticed a vehicle towing a trailer traveling southbound on Highway 101 in Willits.

The deputy conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle for numerous vehicle code violations. The deputy contacted two subjects in the vehicle, who identified as Jesus Alberto Paredes, 24, from Clearlake, and Juan Carlos Marquez-Diego, 36, from Clearlake.

The subjects consented to a search of their vehicle and trailer. Inside the trailer, deputies found 128 approximately 2-foot-tall growing marijuana plants.

The deputy learned the pair were traveling from Covelo to Clearlake with the plants. The subjects did not have any paperwork to show these plants were possessed legally.

Paredes and Marquez-Diego were arrested for transportation for sale of marijuana (11360 HS) and conspiracy to commit a crime (182 PC).

Paredes and Marquez-Diego were booked into the Mendocino County Jail to be held in lieu of \$20,000 bail each.





A monster truck catches some air at the Ukiah Speedway.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church
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Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
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707-303-5456
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Pastor Burton Jernigan
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Other ministries suspended for now.
For appointments call:
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Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
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Confessions by appointment:
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10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
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If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Rabbit Days at Rainbow Ag, May 21

Submitted by Ukiah Shamrock 4-H

Join Garrett Weaver, the junior rabbit leader for Ukiah Shamrock 4-H Club, on Saturday, May 21 from 10 am to 12 noon at Rainbow Ag in Ukiah to learn more about rabbits, see a variety of rabbits, and win prizes!

There will be four stations at this spring event: Breeding, Showmanship, Judging and over 15 breeds on display! We will have Stephanie Brundage, an American Rabbit Breeders Association registrar, there to answer questions and teach you about rabbits.

Above: Ukiah 4-H's Garrett Weaver, from Weaver Ranch Rabbitry, with his 2021 meat pen. Below: Ukiah 4-H's junior rabbit leader Garrett Weaver, left, and Kenzie Osburn of Potter Valley 4-H show off rabbits, while American Rabbit Breeders Association judge Allan Hafferty looks on.



SATURDAY COVID VACCINE CLINIC

Clinics will be for ages 5 and older. Children and Adults. For entire community.
Do not need to be Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic patients.

MAY 28 • JUNE 11 • JUNE 25

Appointments are preferred, but drop-ins will be accepted, too.

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9 AM - 12:30 PM & 1 PM - 2:30 PM**

AT BAECHEL CREEK CLINIC: 1245 S. MAIN STREET, WILLITS

Pfizer vaccines will be administered at Saturday clinics
Although we will do Moderna by special advanced request for those 18 years and older.

Patients have to wait onsite for at least 15 minutes after vaccination



Redwood Empire Spring Fair returns June 3 - 5

Submitted by Redwood Empire Fair

The Redwood Empire Spring Fair will return to the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds June 3 through 5.

"We can't wait to welcome guests back for the Spring Fair," said Jennifer Seward, fair CEO. "Families can expect to enjoy classic fair food, carnival rides, and entertainment, including live music and the popular Monster Trucks and Mudd Boggs. It will be a great event for the community and we hope to see many past and new visitors."

Guests are encouraged to indulge in their favorite fair foods, including classics like kettle corn, caramel apples, and corn dogs. The Spring Fair will also feature live music nightly from 6 to 10 pm. Featured musicians include Fake News, Scott Forbes, and Banda Pacifica.

While admission to the fair is free, the grandstands will require a ticket. Pre-sale Monster Truck tickets are available at all Mendo Mill stores in Lake and Mendocino counties and Ukiah Grocery Outlet. Pre-sale Monster Truck tickets are \$22 for adults (12 and up) and \$15 for children (3 to 11 years of age). Prices at the gate are \$25 per adult and \$18 per child.

Pre-sale carnival wristband tickets are available at all Mendo Mill stores in Lake and Mendocino counties, Ukiah Grocery Outlet, Ukiah Taco Bell, Raley's, Chavez Market, and the Creative Workshop. Pre-sale wristbands are \$30 each (price at the carnival is \$35) and are good for any one day. Parking is \$10.

Gates will open for the Spring Fair at 3 pm on Friday, June 3 and at noon on Saturday and Sunday.



The rest of
Sales Tax From page 6

right now with inflation and everything," he added. "I don't know if we went for a tax at the November ballot if we would be successful.... So I'm very hesitant to go ahead with any kind of proposal for a sales tax at this point."

Williams responded that he believed county residents would support sending money to local fire districts.

"I think the public trusts their volunteer fire departments and the paid departments of which there's very few," he said. "So the idea of raising funds to funnel revenue to existing public institutions that are highly functional that know how to stretch every dollar, I think the public would support that."

"Personally I would support the tax for water as well," he added. "I think that we're behind the game already. It's going to become more of a crisis."

Some of the possible water projects mentioned by the supervisors which could use the tax funds were groundwater studies in the Third District, desalination of sea water on the coast, increased storage capacities, and "planning and litigation" related to the Potter Valley Water Project.

"As it goes to water, we're really at a crossroads," said Supervisor McGourty. "What I'm hoping that we do is that we chart a path forward for the next 100 years, because we've been living on about 100 years of legacy decision-making in Mendocino County on water, and our time has literally run out."

As the county explores moving forward on their sales tax measure, "The Citizens Initiative for the Library" supporters are also currently in the midst of their own campaign to get a sales tax ballot initiative approved.

The group is currently gathering signatures in an effort to have voters approve an increase of 1/8 cent per dollar sales tax for library funding – bringing it up to 1/4 cent overall – and have that rate remain in effect permanently.

Like the county, they are also emphasizing to the public that overall taxes would not be raised since the Measure B tax is decreasing.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde spoke in support of the efforts of the Citizens Initiative for the Library, and had serious misgivings as to whether a sales tax measure put on the ballot by the supervisors was the right way to go.

He talked of the failed efforts by the board to put in place a new cannabis ordinance last year due to a citizen-led referendum against it, and didn't think the supervisors had the "credibility" to lead the way on a tax ordinance.

"The voters are not going to rubber stamp a tax that this board of supervisors puts on the ballot," he said. "And I think we should approach this with some humility.... I think the suggestion to raise the tax dollars needs to come from the voters themselves."

"I think there are legitimate arguments to be made for a tax for better water delivery in Mendocino County," he continued. "I definitely think there's a strong argument to be made for the fire departments and fire resiliency in Mendocino County. And I think library supporters – I think they're the ones that are showing the way to do it. It's not by rounding up three or five votes on the board of supervisors, because that's a path to nowhere."

Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren said that in her view the different sales tax measures from the county and the library supporters did not have to be in conflict, and could be supported and passed simultaneously by the community – though that could mean that overall sales taxes in the county would increase slightly by something like 1/8 cent per dollar.

"I want for the Friends of the Library and the community to really understand we have not met our sales tax limit in Mendocino County," she said. "We don't have to associate the board moving forward with this item against the libraries. We're not competing. There are many needs in our county and we have the ability as voters to support both."

Gjerde disagreed with Mulheren, saying: "I think what you said is theoretically true, but if there is two or three taxes on the ballot, they're each more likely to lose votes.... It also diverts the attention of the voters. If they're voting on one measure, they can focus on it and make an informed decision. You put two or three taxes on the ballot, out of frustration, confusion, lack of information, people are generally going to vote no."

Mulheren said she was strongly in support of putting the sales tax measure to voters given what's at stake.

"As an elected person sitting here today, considering what

we do about the Potter Valley Project and what happens with the potential raising of the Coyote Dam and adding more storage capacity in Lake Mendocino – if I didn't try to do something, then I would've failed my community," she said. "I feel ... that this is our opportunity to put something to the voters that they can help and support us financially, so that we can have these historical changes that we need. So that decades from now my grandkids will be able to say, 'I'm glad we kept that water local.' That's what the water means to me."

During public comments, no one spoke out against the idea of the sales tax measure, and some of those who spoke in support included John Reardon, board member of the Russian River Flood Control and the Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission; Emily Techhio, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council coordinator; Dave Latooof, chief of the Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department and president of the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association; and Ben MacMillan, steering committee member of the Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts.

"A shift to a consistent long-term focus is needed," MacMillan said of fire funding. "County residents rely on public EMS and fire services. Equipment and emergency vehicles are extremely expensive and staffing is 90% volunteer in the county. This model can't successfully continue to provide high levels of service without increased financial support."

Latooof said that of the 21 fire districts in the county, only two "might have full staff. It's a subject of department reports every meeting that they're having problems keeping volunteers coming and retention to their department," he said.

Devon Boer of the Mendocino County Farm Bureau said that she would like to see more specifics on how the tax money would be spent, but generally supported investing it in water projects.

"Going into a third year of drought, I think there are opportunities within the public to understand the critical juncture that we are at in Mendocino County, looking at aging water infrastructure, threatened water supplies, unknowns with the future of groundwater resources in this county," she said. "I think this could be an opportunity to continue to have a bigger awareness of the need of funding for water."

County Assessor/ Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomie told board members the deadline to submit a ballot measure for the November election is August 12.

BOS asks state to pause PG&E tree removal

In other actions taken, the board approved sending letters to Governor Gavin Newsom and the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety asking that they temporarily halt PG&E's "Enhanced Vegetation Management Program" until some changes could be implemented and more clarity given about their criteria for tree removal.

The board also approved an introduction of a "fallowing" program ordinance for cannabis cultivators, where they can declare that they are not operating for the year and avoid the county's minimum cannabis tax, but still retain their permit for future years.

The rest of
Growing From page 3

tradition of people who pick fruit and vegetables that are not being utilized by farmers or orchard owners. According to Ronnefeldt, the group was started by Karen Gridley about 18 years ago. The produce that is brought in is distributed to the Willits Food Bank, Willits Harrah Senior Center, the Boys and Girls Club, in addition to a handful of other organizations.

"I once picked trees with Prana," said Ronnefeldt, "and next door was an apple tree, full of apples and dropping. There were people walking by. I picked up an apple and a man came and I asked him if he would like to have an apple. He was delighted but he couldn't bring himself to pick one up himself. I wonder what is the inhibition when there is a tree that is not being harvested. People are concerned about liability or being accused of theft or asking the owner. It is just going to waste. It does not hurt to ask or to arrange something."

The Grateful Gleaners are looking for the next generation of energetic young gleaners to take over. Contact Ronnefeldt at wolfgang@pacific.net for more information on how to become a member of this organization of civic and practical-minded locals.

The rest of
Tournament From page 5

the biggest incentive, as well as helping raise money for this excellent cause. The price of entry was \$150 per team, which netted \$900 for Sober Grad.

"We're doing all kinds of different stuff this year [to raise money], including this tournament, just for a little change of scenery, to get outside and get a little vitamin D," said Lambert. "This is the second to the last fundraiser of the season. Flying Dog Pizza is donating one pizza per team. Sparetime let us borrow all their boards. 101 Trailer gave us some great discounts on some prizes for today. All proceeds go to Sober Grad."

"We raffled two gift baskets and we did a candy sale," she continued. "We did a pulled-pork sandwich lunch for Super Bowl. Our tri-tip dinner is always our biggest fundraiser of the year. We have the Cornhole Tournament today. The last thing we're doing is a lumpia sale, which is a Philippine variation on an eggroll. We have a senior parent who is going to prepare those. We're going to sell those at Roots of Motive Power in May at the Memorial Day Weekend Car Show on the 29th."

For those unfamiliar with the simple and competitive world of cornhole games, Lambert explained, "On the board is one point. In the hole is three points. You can cancel points of your opponents by matching their throws, i.e., if your opponent gets a bag in the hole and you do the same, the points cancel each other out. You can accidentally knock someone in the hole or off the board."

"If it gets to 12-0, it's considered a 'skunk' and the game is over," she said. "You play to 21 points. These are tournament rules. Normally, if you play to 21 and you go over, you would start over from zero and work your way back up. That scoring takes too long. They are going to play to 21 three times each round, so it's best two of three games. Because it's double-elimination, you can lose twice before you're out."

There was an additional chance to win prizes: a supplemental practice game where the contestants could purchase eight chances (eight bags) for \$20 and whoever got the most bags in the hole could win a Yeti cooler.

The six intrepid teams consisted of Kevin and Dominic Kvasnicka, Andrew Hosford and Heather Walker (Sparetime team), Jevin Wolfe and Nicholas Harrington (MetalFX), Bo Dale and Gabe Campbell (from Laytonville), Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez and Martin Rodriguez, and Stephen Summers and Mickey Coughlin (winners).

Of course, the purpose of all this competition was to raise funds and awareness of the upcoming Sober Grad event. "Any student in the Willits Unified School District: Willits High School, Sanhedrin, Charter, La Vida are eligible to attend," said Lambert. "Even if they did nothing to help Sober Grad all year, they are still eligible to attend the party. They can come and stay the night, receive the \$50 gift, win carnival games, eat food all night long. Scoops is going to do a coffee bar with Red Bulls and coffees. There's cool stuff going on all night long."

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Join us for casual fine dining.

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Roland's Bistro will be offering 3 specials for take-out: Just heat and eat!

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Questions: Email
weaverranchrabbitry@gmail.com

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Reopening: WILLITS 4-H CLUB!!!

THE WILLITS 4-H CLUB IS COMING BACK FOR 4-H PROGRAM YEAR 2022-23!!

We welcome all previous and any new project leaders, youth members and volunteers to come back together for the 2022-23 year starting this July!

Please spread the word around in order to help us make a strong comeback for the 4-H youth in Willits!

To help volunteers prepare and organize for the reopening of the Willits 4-H Club, please fill out this survey with your interests and in order to get enrollment reminders as we get closer to the summer months.
<https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=37257>

If you want to help, but don't know how, please contact Jessica at 707-510-9096 or jfarfan@ucanr.edu



100+ Women Strong volunteers smile for a photo at the Willits Center for the Arts.

Help 100+ Women Strong choose which local nonprofit will receive funding on June 2

Submitted by 100+ Women Strong of Inland Mendocino County

100+ Women Strong of Inland Mendocino County is set to continue their mission to give a financial boost to an inland Mendocino County nonprofit this year. Rivino Vineyards and Winery is hosting the live event from 5:30 to 7 pm on Thursday, June 2.

Three nonprofits will present at the event. These include the Ukiah-based United Disaster Relief of Northern California (formerly MendoLake Complex Fire Relief); Building Bridges, which provides services for the homeless; and the Shan  l Valley Academy in Hopland.

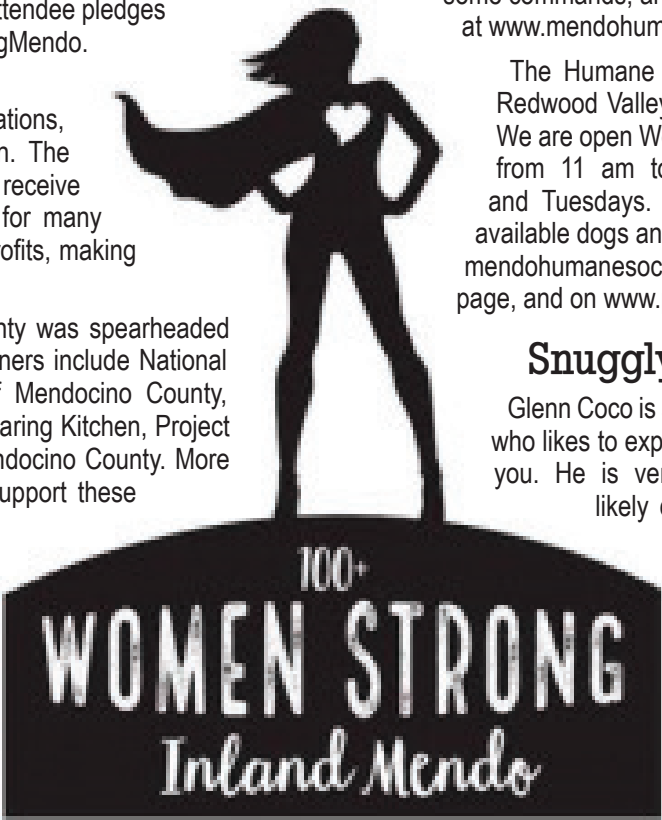
100+ Women Strong is an inclusive all-volunteer group. Anyone interested in attending a gathering and hearing from three nonprofits doing indispensable work in our community is welcome to attend. Each attendee pledges \$100 on the Grapevine website via <https://100StrongMendo.com>. Already more than \$3,000 has been pledged.

At the gathering, after the nonprofits' presentations, everyone votes on the nonprofit they want to win. The votes are counted, and then one winner which will receive the pledged money is announced. It is common for many attendees to write another check to the other nonprofits, making the gathering a win for everyone.

100+ Women Strong for Inland Mendocino County was spearheaded by Katie Fairbairn and 20 volunteers. Previous winners include National Alliance for Mental Illness, Cancer Resources of Mendocino County, Ukiah Valley Trails Group, NCO Gardens Project, Caring Kitchen, Project Sanctuary, and the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County. More than \$100,000 was raised in 2019 and 2020 to support these worthy nonprofits.

In addition to the Rivino Vineyards event on Thursday, June 2, another presentation of nonprofits will take place on Thursday, October 6 at Nelson Family Vineyards.

For more information and to become a member of 100+Women Strong for Inland Mendocino County, visit: <https://100StrongMendo.com>. Or call Karen Christopherson, 707-272-5560.



Lively Lexii

Lexii is an awesome dog! She is super friendly and loyal, bonding quickly to her people. This 3-year-old loves to play a game of fetch, and looks to her people to learn, play, engage, and have FUN! Lexii does well with her commands such as "sit," "lie down," "take it," and "drop it."

Because she is a high-energy dog, she would do best in an active household that has experience with large dogs (she weighs 55 pounds). She is food-motivated and she also loves to learn. Lexii is a playgirl and a tomboy; she loves affection, playing with people and dogs, loves toys, and being an important part of her people's lives!



world. Once Storm is comfortable with you, her cuddles are the sweetest ever! Storm is 8 months old, so still just a puppy! This sweet girl is crate-trained, potty-trained, knows some commands, and is food-motivated. Apply today to schedule a time to meet Storm at www.mendohumanesociety.com.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Great news! We are open back up – no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Snuggly Glenn Coco

Glenn Coco is a very friendly 3-year-old cat who likes to explore and snuggle up against you. He is very sweet, but would most likely do best in a home with no other cats. Glenn Coco is available for adoption at Rainbow Ag in Ukiah



The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Glenn Coco or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com.



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